

REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE YEAR.

1943.  
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## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

- (a) A. B. Follows, M.D., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
Medical Officer of Health. Part Time.  
and Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

- (b) G.H.Champion Cert. "S.I.B."  
Senior Sanitary Inspector,  
Meat and Food Inspector.  
Inspector under the Shops Acts.

T.Hope, Cert. "S.I.B".  
Additional Sanitary Inspector. (On active service.)

Miss. A. Lilley - (On active service.)

Mrs. Ward. Health Clerk.

## DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Dr.E.Protheroe Smith, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Redditch.  
Part time.  
Dr. E.P.Dawes, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (Edin) } Feckenham.  
L.R.S.P.S., (Glas) } " "

Dr.W.T.Mitchell, M.B., Ch.B.,(Glas.1922) } Beoley." "  
} Ipsley  
} Upper Ipsley

## PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

Dr.E.Protheroe Smith, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Redditch.

Dr. E.P.Dawes, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., (Edin) } Feckenham.  
L.R.S.P.S., (Glas.) }

Dr. W.T.Mitchell, M.B., Ch.B. (Glas.1922.) } Beoley.  
} Ipsley.  
} Upper Ipsley.

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To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health  
and Housing Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my 10th Annual Report on the Health of the Redditch Urban District. I would mention that the health services for which this Council is responsible are for the most part environmental, whereas personal health, the school medical services, maternity and child welfare etc., is the responsibility of the County Council, a report on which will be incorporated in the Annual Report of the County Medical Officer.

The vital statistics of the town for the year may be considered satisfactory. The Birth Rate is still high although down a little on the previous year's figure. The Death Rate is even lower than last year when a low record was reached. The Infant Mortality Rate is not so good this time. The general health of the people has been maintained at a reasonably high level, but although vital statistics and sickness figures show little change on the previous year's, general fatigue has been felt to some extent by almost every member of the community. Long working hours in factories and short periods of rest especially amongst children are two factors only which contribute to this condition.

During the year the Health Department has been moved to new premises at 6. Mount Pleasant which it shares with the Ministry of Fuel and Power, the Sanitary Inspector holding a joint appointment with the two departments. There is considerably more room in the new premises and in time we shall feel the benefit of it, but like many other offices nowadays we are suffering from shortage of staff which allows the performance of routine work only. In solving our difficulties my Council have been most helpful and my thanks are due to them and to the other officials for their valued co-operation during the year.

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SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

|                                   |    |    |    |    |    |               |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|
| Estimated population..            | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26,390.       |
| Area.                             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12,059 acres. |
| Number of Inhabited Houses 1942.  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 7,415.        |
| 1943.                             |    |    |    |    |    | 7,437.        |
| Rateable Value (1st October 1943) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £135,370.     |
| Sum represented by Penny Rate.    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £555.         |

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VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

|          | Total | M   | F   | Birth Rate per<br>1,000 Population. | Eng. &<br>Wales |
|----------|-------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Legit.   | 465   | 241 | 224 | 1943. 1942.                         | 1943.           |
| Illegit. | 20    | 9   | 11  | 18.38 19.38                         | 16.5            |

STILL BIRTHS.

|          | Total | M | F | Still Birth Rate<br>per 1,000 total births |  |
|----------|-------|---|---|--|--|
| Legit.   | 15.   | 6 | 9 | 1943. 1942.                                |  |
| Illegit. | -     | - | 1 | 32.97 34.68                                |  |

DEATHS.

|  | Total | M   | F   | Death Rate per<br>1,000 Population. | Eng. &<br>Wales |
|--|-------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
|  | 278   | 140 | 138 | 1943. 1942.                         | 1943.           |
|  |       |     |     | 10.54 10.75                         | 12.1            |

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

|                   | Deaths.<br>1943. | Rate per 1,000<br>Total Births. |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Puerperal Sepsis. | -                | 1.93                            |
| Other Maternal.   | -                | -                               |
| Causes.           | -                | 1.03                            |
| Total.            | -                | 3.86                            |

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

|   | Total | M  | F  | Infant Mort. Rate<br>per 1,000 live<br>births. | Eng. &<br>Wales. |
|---|-------|----|----|--|------------------|
| Legit.  | 26    | 12 | 14 | 1943. 1942.                                    | 1943.            |
| Illegit.  | -     | 1  | -  | 55.67 35.93                                    | 49.0             |
| Legit. Infants per 1,000 legit.<br>live births.     |       |    |    | M. F.  |                  |
|   |       |    |    | 49.79 62.50                                    |                  |
| Illegit. Infants per 1,000<br>illegit. live births. |       |    |    | 111.1 -  |                  |

DEATHS from:-

|   | Total | Mortality Rate per<br>1,000 population. | Eng. &<br>Wales |
|---|-------|---|-----------------|
|   |       | 1943. 1942.                             | 1943.           |
| Measles.  | -     | -                                       | 9.88            |
| Whooping Cough.   | -     | -                                       | 2.54            |
| Small Pox.  | -     | -                                       | -               |
| Scarlet Fever.  | -     | -                                       | 3.01            |
| Diphtheria.   | -     | 0.04                                    | 0.88            |
| Appendicitis.   | 3     | 0.11                                    | -               |
| Encephalitis Lethargica.                                      | -     | 0.04                                    | -               |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever.   | -     | -                                       | 0.08            |
| Influenza.  | -     | 0.08                                    | 0.37            |
| Tuberculosis (Respiratory).                                   | 10    | 0.38 0.31                               | -               |
| Other Tuberculosis.   | 4     | 0.15 0.04                               | -               |
| Cancer.   | 43    | 1.63 1.59                               | -               |
| Heart Disease.  | 79    | 2.99 2.39                               | -               |
| Pneumonia (all forms)   | 16    | 0.61 0.23                               | 1.34            |
| Bronchitis.   | 19.   | 0.72 0.58                               | -               |
| Violence & Suicide.   | 8     | 0.30 0.70.                              | -               |
| Congenital debility, premature<br>births, malformations, etc. | 4     | 0.14 0.23                               | -               |
| Diarrhoea & Enteric<br>(under 2 years)                        | 1     | 2.06 7.98                               | 5.3.            |

(Per 1,000 live births.)



SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES  
IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

An arrangement was made with the Chief Constable for the express delivery of samples by Police car to Worcester. The Medical Practitioners have been notified of this scheme, but little use has been made of it.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

This service is now under the administrative control of the Health Department. During the year, several improvements in the service were made, and I can now state that it has reached a much higher standard of efficiency than previously. A new Ambulance Station complete with Office for drivers is now in operation. The detailed working arrangements have been fully investigated and put on a much better footing. The demands of female labour have prevented us obtaining the services of a permanent lady attendant on the ambulance, but by an arrangement with the Redditch Nursing Association and the County Council a district midwife now accompanies all maternity cases being transferred to Hospital.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are few changes to report in the work of the District Nursing Associations. Early this year, the Astwood Bank and Crabbs Cross district nurses relinquished their part-time Health Visitors duties paid for by the County Council on the appointment of a full-time Health Visitor for the Astwood Bank, Crabbs Cross, and Headless Cross districts. At times there would appear to have been a great need for Nursing help in the home. During the Influenza epidemic at the end of the year an assistance scheme was prepared with the help of various voluntary organisations in the town, but it was found that people rather naturally preferred to make their own domestic arrangements with neighbours, and were reluctant to apply for any form of outside aid.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

It will be observed that these are for the most part provided by the County Council, and are conducted by Officers employed by the County Council. Much valuable preventive health work is done at these Clinics, and increasing demands are made on the responsible staffs. The time and work devoted to the Welfare Centres by voluntary workers is much appreciated.

| Clinic.                        | Situated.                | Accommodation. | By whom provided.             | Times of holding.                     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Redditch Child Welfare Centre. | Old Vicarage B'grove Rd. | 4 rooms.       | County Council & voluntarily. | Monday<br>2 p.m.<br>Tuesday<br>2 p.m. |

| Clinic.                                   | Situated.                       | Accommodation.                             | By whom provided.                | Times of holding.                  |
|---|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>School Clinic.</u>                     |                                 |  |                                  | Thursday<br>10 a.m.                |
| <u>Dental Clinic.</u>                     | Old Vicarage<br>B'grove Rd.     | 3 Rooms.                                   | County Council.                  | Wed. and<br>Frid. 10 a.m.          |
| <u>Orthopaedic Clinic.</u>                |                                 |  |                                  | Monday<br>10 a.m.                  |
| <u>Diphtheria Prevention Clinic.</u>      | do                              | 2 Rooms.                                   | R.U.D.C. &<br>County Council.    | 2nd and 4th<br>Thursday<br>10 a.m. |
| <u>Ante Natal Clinic.</u>                 | do                              | 2 Rooms.                                   | County Council.                  | Tuesday<br>10 a.m.                 |
| <u>Astwood Bank Child Welfare Centre.</u> | Church Hall<br>Astwood<br>Bank. | 1 large<br>room<br>1 small room.           | County Council<br>& voluntarily. | 2nd and 4th<br>Mondays<br>2 p.m.   |
| <u>Tuberculosis.</u>                      | The<br>Dispensary,<br>Eln Road. | Waiting<br>Room and<br>Consulting<br>Room. | County Council.                  | Friday<br>2 p.m.                   |

(e) HOSPITALS.

The following Hospitals only one of which is situated in the Urban District are available to Redditch residents.

| HOSPITAL.               | NAME.  | SITUATED.   | BY WHOM PROVIDED.                         |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|
| Tuberculosis.           | W.C.C. and B'grove<br>Droitwich and<br>Redditch Joint<br>Hospital. | Knightwick,<br>Bromsgrove<br>and Hayley<br>Green. | Under joint control                       |
| Infectious<br>Diseases. | Bromsgrove Droitwich<br>and Redditch Joint<br>Hospital.            | Bromsgrove.                                       | ditto                                     |
| Scabies.                | Tolladine.   | Worcester.  | W.C.C.                                    |
| Smallpox.               | W.C.C.   | Worcester.  | W.C.C.                                    |
| Internity.              | Mary Stevens<br>Lucy Baldwin.                                      | Stourbridge.<br>Stourport.                        | W.C.C.<br>W.C.C.                          |
| Other General.          | Smallwood<br>Hospital. 37 beds<br>and 2 cots.                      | Redditch.   | Voluntarily, not<br>Rate-aided.           |
| Veneral<br>Disease.     | General Hospital,<br>Royal Infirmary.                              | Birmingham.<br>Worcester.                         | By arrangement<br>with County<br>Council. |
| Puerperal<br>Pyrexia.   | General Hospital<br>Royal Infirmary.                               | Birmingham.<br>Worcester.                         | By arrangement<br>with County<br>Council. |



765 in-patients received treatment at the Smallwood Hospital during the year, and 1674 patients were recommended for treatment at the Birmingham and other Hospitals.

The Joint Isolation Hospital at Hill Top, Bromsgrove is under the control of the Redditch, Bromsgrove and Droitwich Joint Hospital Board. Close liason exists between the Redditch Health Department and this Hospital.

(f) MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

There has been a popular request for a Maternity Home in the Redditch district since the closing of the Birches Nursing Home early in 1944. There is certainly a need for maternity beds here to accommodate urgent cases and those cases where the home conditions are unsuitable for the confinement, and many come under the last category. The position at present is that maternity patients must travel a distance of 15 to 20 miles to hospital. Shortage of trained staff is, I understand, one of the main obstacles, even if a suitable home was forthcoming. There are now only two small registered nursing homes in the area, one of which takes maternity cases.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER - (ARTESIAN WELL WATER.)

To meet the water shortage in Redditch, the East. Worcs. Waterworks Company, have erected a new bore hole and pumping station at Brookhill 2 miles outside the town, and have completed a large storage reservoir at Rectory Road, Headless Cross, so that there is now more than double the supply of 1939 and sufficient water to supply the needs of 60,000 population. Several extensions have been made where building has been in progress. A small number of houses, situated in the more outlying areas are still dependent on well water which is always suspect. Complaints are occasionally received from the Berrow Hill district on the quality of the drinking water. It was here that the scheme for an extension of a supply had to be suspended at the outbreak of war. The Sanitary Inspector informs me that approximately 450 houses in Redditch, mostly those houses scheduled for demolition under slum clearance, draw their water from standpipes. This represents approximately 6% of the total houses. The rest, for the most part, have a direct supply to the house. The Government proposals for a National Water Policy after the war have now been submitted in White Paper form. This marks a step forward towards an adequate and pure supply for everyone, and aims at removing defects in and improving the present system of supply. Monthly analyses are made of the local water and this is found to be pure and wholesome in every respect.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The new sewerage disposal works designed for a population of 40,000 people was officially opened in October. The work was started before the war and exceptional problems in man power and materials have had to be overcome in order to get the place completed. This is a very fine piece of work and of vital importance to the health of the town. In November 1943, the works were dealing with approximately one third of the sewage from the town area, the rest passing to the old works at Ipsley. The old works is now completely disconnected and the whole of the sewage passes to the new works. Certain lengths of sewer approved by the Ministry of Health are still in course of construction. A fully qualified sewerage Manager has been appointed to work under the Surveyor. The problem of dealing with trade wastes has always been a real one since

factory development started here, and this has been accentuated in the last few years. Having in mind the possibility of damage to sewers and works and pollution of the river, the local Council and the County Health Authority are strenuously working to get all likely sources of industrial pollution cleared up. A report has been received on the matter from their Consultant Engineer, Major. Waters, and the problem followed up on the lines recommended with the owners of Industrial premises in the town. The small disposal works in the outlying parts of the town have functioned satisfactorily. A breakdown of the distributors took place at Astwood Bank and it was necessary to provide a new pump at the Hunt End Works. In course of time, and when national circumstances permit the 400 odd pail closets in the built up part of the town will have to be abolished and replaced by a water carriage system.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Complaints have been received from time to time on the unsatisfactory state of the River Arrow. Various sources of pollution are under investigation.

3. (1) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Number of pail closets converted into water closets.                  | 1.    |
| Number of trough closets converted into water closets.                | Nil.  |
| Analysis of sanitary accommodation at the end of 1943. Water Closets. | 5310. |
| Automatically flushed W.C's.  | 357.  |
| Waste water closets.  | 16.   |
| Slop closets.   | 97.   |
| Pail closets.   | 479.  |
| Earth closets.  | 17.   |

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING

There have been no important extensions or improvements in the arrangements for Public Cleansing during the year.

House refuse is collected fortnightly and disposed of by "controlled" tipping.

4.819 acres have been purchased for tipping purposes near the Birmingham Road tip.



(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

| <u>PREMISES INSPECTED.</u> |     |  |     |     | <u>No. OF INSPECTIONS.</u> |
|----------------------------|-----|--|-----|-----|----------------------------|
| ACCUMULATIONS FOUND        | ... | ...  | ... | ... | 6.                         |
| ANIMALS KEPT               | -   | Piggeries  | ... | ... | 313.                       |
|                            |     | Stables  | ... | ... | 2.                         |
|                            |     | Fowls, pigeons, etc..                                  | ... | ... | 16.                        |
| COMPLAINTS                 | -   | Total No. investigated                                 |     |     |                            |
|                            |     | (all premises)   | ... |     | 130.                       |
| DAIRIES                    | -   | Cowsheds   | ... | ... | 85.                        |
|                            |     | Dairies  | ... | ... | 24.                        |
|                            |     | Milk Shops   | ... | ... | 14.                        |
| DISINFECTION               | -   | No. of houses disinfected..                            |     |     | 56.                        |
|                            |     | " " other buildings disinf.                            |     |     | 5.                         |
| DISINFESTATION             | -   | No. of houses  | ... | ... | 17.                        |
|                            |     | Other premises   | ... | ... | 75.                        |
| DRAINAGE.                  |     | No. of drains found choked.                            |     |     | 41.                        |
|                            |     | " " " " defective.                                     |     |     | 14.                        |
|                            |     | " " " " tested.  |     |     | 19.                        |
|                            |     | Visits to works in progress.                           |     |     | 73.                        |
| DWELLING HOUSES            | -   | No. inspected re Post War Housing Programme.           |     |     | 451.                       |
|                            |     | No. inspected re repairs.                              |     |     | 95.                        |
|                            |     | Re-inspections   | ... | ... | 378.                       |
|                            |     | No. inspected re overcrowding.                         |     |     | 10.                        |
|                            |     | No. found dirty  | ... | ... | 24.                        |
|                            |     | " " verminous  | ... | ... | 17.                        |
| INFECTIOUS DISEASES-       |     | Visits re Scarlet Fever                                | ... | ... | 40.                        |
|                            |     | " " Diphtheria   | ... | ... | 6.                         |
|                            |     | " " other diseases                                     | ... | ... | 3.                         |
| FACTORIES                  | -   | With mechanised power                                  | ... | ... | 60.                        |
|                            |     | Without mechanised power                               | ... | ... | 3.                         |
|                            |     | Bakehouses   | ... | ... | 16.                        |
| FOOD PREMISES              | -   | Butcher shops or stalls                                | ... | ... | 219.                       |
|                            |     | Preparation of potted meat, etc.                       |     |     | 7.                         |
|                            |     | Fruiterers.  | ... | ... | 54.                        |
|                            |     | Fishmongers and fried fish shops.                      |     |     | 21.                        |
|                            |     | Restaurants or cafe kitchens.                          |     |     | 6.                         |
|                            |     | Samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination. |     |     | 6.                         |
| MISCELLANEOUS VISITS.      | -   | No. of visits not otherwise classified.                |     |     | 118.                       |
| SHOPS ACTS                 | -   | ...  | ... | ... | 52.                        |
| TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.   | -   | ...  | ... | ... | 45.                        |
| WATER SUPPLIES             | -   | Visits to premises re wells.                           |     |     | 17.                        |
|                            |     | No. of samples taken (chem.)                           |     |     | 3.                         |
|                            |     | " " " " (bact.)  |     |     | 3.                         |

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Total No. of Inspections - 2544.

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(iv) IMPROVEMENTS.

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Houses generally repaired.         | 73 |
| Wash-houses repaired.              | 4  |
| Water closets repaired or renewed. | 15 |
| Additional Water Closets provided. | 2  |
| Houses cleansed.                   | 24 |
| Verminous premises disinfested.    | 92 |
| Drains reconstructed.              | 14 |
| Choked drains cleansed.            | 41 |
| Dustbins provided.                 | 7  |
| Privy ashpits abolished.           | 1  |
| Accumulations removed.             | 6  |
| Cesspools emptied.                 | 9  |

(v) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS & LICE.

Seventeen houses were found to be infested with bed bugs. Liquid insecticide is used for disinfestation and "Zaldecide" is found to be the most effective. The premises are examined 10 - 14 days after treatment. In addition, 75 cases of lice (workers transferred into the district) have been dealt with.

RATS AND MICE INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

In accordance with the provisions of this Order, a survey has been made of the district (excluding agricultural premises which are dealt with by the War Agricultural Committee). It was found there were 27 major rat infestations, 115 minor rat infestations, 32 major mice infestations and 273 minor mice infestations. Reports were submitted to the Ministry of Food and preparations are being made to proceed with destruction.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

|     |     |   |     |
|-----|-----|---|-----|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. .   | 546 |
|     | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 546 |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .. .. . | Nil |
|     | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose  | Nil |
| (3) |     | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ..                                       | 221 |
| (4) |     | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..    | 74  |

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. | 73 |
|--|----|

|     |   |     |  |
|-----|---|-----|--|
| 3.  | ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.  |     |  |
| (a) | PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.   |     |  |
|     | (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .   | Nil |  |
|     | (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:-   |     |  |
|     | (a) By Owners .. .. .   | Nil |  |
|     | (b) By local authority in default of Owners .. .. .   | Nil |  |
| (b) | PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.   |     |  |
|     | (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. .  | Nil |  |
|     | (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:-  |     |  |
|     | (a) By Owners .. .. .   | Nil |  |
|     | (b) By local authority in default of owners .. .. .   | Nil |  |
| (c) | PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.  |     |  |
|     | (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .   | Nil |  |
|     | (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .  | Nil |  |
| (d) | PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936   |     |  |
|     | (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. .. .  | Nil |  |
|     | (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. .. . | Nil |  |

|     |  |     |  |
|-----|--|-----|--|
| 1.  | HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV. OVERCROWDING.  |     |  |
| (a) | (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. .. .   | 63  |  |
|     | (ii) Number of families dwelling therein .. .. .   | 65  |  |
|     | (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .. .. .   | 427 |  |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. .. .   | 8   |  |
| (c) | (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. .   | 6   |  |
|     | (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases .. .. .   | 27  |  |
| (d) | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding .. .. . | Nil |  |

This does not indicate the true position of overcrowding in the district, and there are a large number of cases of which full details are not known. Owing to shortage of staff it is impossible to keep an up-to-date record of the overcrowding position where so many families are changing houses, removing from or to the town every week.



## HOUSING.

22 houses in Ash Tree Road were completed during the year and permission has now been obtained for the completion of 46 houses on the Batchley Estate, the footings for which were started before the war. The housing position is still acute owing to the suspension of building development and the rise in the population. The demands on labour make it extremely difficult to get even small emergency repairs to property carried out.

Much thought has been given to the Post War Development of the town. Plans for the development of a new Civic Centre have been prepared. Sites for future building have been selected and purchased and the Council are anxious to make provision for the housing requirements of the population as soon as the war situation permits. There is no doubt an awakening of the public conscience today which it is hoped will remain alive for many years to come. Women are becoming more house conscious and it is hoped that they will in future be able to take a useful part in the work of housing committees. I am also of the opinion that women would be usefully employed as Housing Welfare Officers on Council Estates. The proposals for the interior design of new dwellings has received a great deal of prominence. There is no doubt that the domestic amenities envisaged can greatly benefit health and general well being. The extra space provided is excellent, but instruction is necessary and health teaching will have to keep pace with these new developments.

Redditch has a large rural area and the housing needs of our rural community must not be lost sight of. The standard of rural housing has for many years fallen below the standard of houses elsewhere. We should soon be prepared, given adequate staff, to make new detailed surveys on the housing position as much of the original work is now out of date. The housing of the people is the most important single health requirement at the moment and this should even take precedence over the construction of larger civic buildings in future planning schemes where cost is a consideration.

-11-  
 FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

| Premises<br>(1)   | Number of          |                           |                                |
|---|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
|   | Inspections<br>(2) | Written<br>Notices<br>(3) | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted<br>(4) |
| FACTORIES, with mechanical power.   | 60                 | Nil                       | Nil                            |
| FACTORIES, without mechanical power.  | 3                  | Nil                       | Nil                            |
| xOTHER PREMISES, under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including outworkers' premises) | 3                  | Nil                       | Nil                            |
| xElectrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.   |                    |                           |                                |
| TOTAL:  | 66                 | Nil                       | Nil                            |

2. DEFECTS FOUND

| Particulars.<br>(1)                      | Number of Defects. |                 | Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted.<br>(5) |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|---|
|  | Found<br>(2)       | Remedied<br>(3) |   |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1)                | 7                  | 7               | Nil   |
| Overcrowding (S.2)                       | Nil                | Nil             | Nil   |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) .. ..     | Nil                | Nil             | Nil   |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) .. ..       | Nil                | Nil             | Nil   |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..  | -                  | -               | Nil   |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) insufficient | 4                  | 4               | Nil   |
| unsuitable or defective                  | 6                  | 6               | Nil   |
| not separate for sexes                   | 1                  | 1               | Nil   |
| Other offences                           | -                  | -               | Nil   |
| TOTAL                                    | 18                 | 18              | Nil   |



### BATHING CENTRE, SOUTH STREET.

699 attendances were made during the year. The numbers less than last year owing to the better washing facilities which have been provided at factories and hostels.

### SWIMMING BATHS.

Following a report which I made to my Committee incorporating suggestions for the improvement of the swimming bath and so reducing the risk of accidents and infection therein, several important improvements were made on the advice and under the supervision of the Surveyor. The structural improvements included a new entrance drive and general repairs to the bath itself. A lady attendant instructor was appointed and Health rules to swimmers were posted in various parts of the bath.

The swimming bath is a valuable acquisition to the town and any financial loss which may be suffered in the running of it is far out weighed by the great benefit to health which undoubtedly results. One difficulty which is seems impossible to overcome without extensive structural modifications is the satisfactory separation of bathers from spectators.

### SCHOOLS

The Redditch Schools are on the whole of very poor construction. Apart from the County High School, only one of the remaining nine schools has been built during this century. A certain amount of modernising has been done to some, but the majority are still of the old ecclesiastical style and lacking in many of the health amenities of the more modern schools. I hope Redditch will receive early consideration when the question of the provision of new schools is considered.

### SECTION E.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

The Government White Paper C.M.d.6454 issued in July 1943 is a measure to improve the quality of the Nation's milk supply. If this becomes law it will mean that the supervisory powers now possessed by the Sanitary Inspector of Local Authorities over farms and cow sheds will disappear and will be taken over by executive officers of the Ministries of Agriculture and Food. Much work has been done in this district during the year to improve the quality of the milk supply and a fairly high standard has been reached with designated milks. At the milk pasteurising premises which deals with a large portion of the towns milk supply extensive improvements have been made to the construction of the building and pasteurising plant. The Resazurin test has been applied at intervals under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, to milk supplied by producers to the Depot, and the results have shown a fairly high standard of cleanliness. The large number of small retailers in this town makes it necessary that the Scheme for Heat Treatment as outlined in the White Paper be applied here in the interests of health. There is some criticism on the White Paper's suggestion that Accredited milk should be exempt from Heat Treatment. This milk is just as liable to spread disease as raw milk. The difference between safe and clean milk must be appreciated. Universal pasteurisation or sterilisation is the only safeguard today.

The Register contains 95 Retail Purveyors and 74 Wholesale Traders and Producers. During the year 123 inspections were made.

Licences granted during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, are as follows:-

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Pastourised (to bottle and sell) | 1 |
| Tuberculin Tested (Dealers)      | 2 |
| Pastourised (Dealers)            | 6 |

Repairs and alterations have been carried out at Upper Grinsty Farm, and improvements have been made in the drainage, and cowshed floor, the approach to the cowshed has been concreted and a suitable dairy provided.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1942:

|                  |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| 700              | tins of food.            |
| 469              | Eggs.                    |
| 230              | lbs. Bacon.              |
| 102              | " Cheese.                |
| 56               | " Ham.                   |
| 581              | " Pork Sausages.         |
| 79               | " Tomatoes.              |
| 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ | " Lamb.                  |
| 26               | " Beef.                  |
| 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ | " Pork.                  |
| 11               | " Beef Luncheon Sausage. |
| 35               | " Cake.                  |
| 19               | " Sugar.                 |
| 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  | " Rice.                  |
| 44               | " Prunes.                |
| 70               | " Quaker Oats.           |
| 28               | " Butter.                |
| 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ | " Grosvenor Pie.         |
| 200              | " Herrings.              |
| 3                | boxes "                  |
| 136              | - 1 lb. Jars of Jam.     |
| 96               | Steak & Kidney Pies.     |
| 72               | Pork Pies.               |
| 342              | Fish Cakes.              |
| 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  | cwt. Sacks of Potatoes.  |
| 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ | stone Fish.              |



SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1. SCARLET FEVER.

40 cases (23 males and 17 females) were notified compared with 31 in the previous year. 37 were removed to hospital, and 3 were isolated at home. The disease was, on the whole, mild in type.

2. DIPHTHERIA.

6 cases (2 male and 4 females) were notified compared with 6 in the previous year. There were no deaths. All the cases were removed to hospital, and none had been immunised previously.

IMMUNISATION.

949 children were immunised in 1943 (of these 604 were under school age, compared with 338 in 1942.) The total of immunised children in Redditch is now - 5,288. (i.e., December 31st, 1943)

Immunisation for the prevention of diphtheria has been conducted at Clinics and school premises at intervals throughout the year. Regular Sessions are held at the School Clinic, the Old Vicarage, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the Month and at the Astwood Bank Infant Welfare Centre on the 2nd and 4th Mondays.

The A.P.T.2 injection method has been continued.

The figures from 1933 onwards are as follows:-

|          | <u>Number treated.</u> | <u>Cases of Diphtheria.</u> | <u>Number of deaths.</u> |
|----------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1933.    | 90                     | 105                         | 6                        |
| 1934.    | 884                    | 107                         | 10                       |
| 1935.    | 438                    | 19                          | Nil                      |
| 1936.    | 153                    | 21                          | Nil                      |
| 1937.    | 139                    | 18                          | 2                        |
| 1938.    | 175                    | 29                          | 2                        |
| 1939.    | 298                    | 46                          | 2                        |
| 1940.    | 150                    | 11                          | Nil                      |
| 1941.    | 1160                   | 12                          | 2                        |
| 1942.    | 852                    | 6                           | 1                        |
| 1943.    | 949                    | 6                           | Nil                      |
| Totals - | 5288                   | 380                         | 25                       |

No cases of diphtheria have occurred amongst the immunised population. The position at 31st December 1943, making allowance for cases treated privately, deaths and transferred cases is as follows:-

|                                  |   |     |
|----------------------------------|---|-----|
| % population treated (1) Under 5 | - | 59% |
| (2) 5 - 15                       | - | 81% |

Various means of obtaining "consents" have been employed from time to time, but the best method is by personal contact in the home, the Welfare Centres and the Schools through the agency of Health Visitors and the co-operation of teachers.

Children are not usually treated until they have reached their first birthday, so the figure of 59% appears low. The % immunised of the immunisable population under 5 would be approximately 75%.

#### SCABIES.

Only a small number of cases have been treated at the Cleansing Station under an Officer of the Local Sanitary Authority. A few cases have been referred for hospital treatment at Tolladine Hospital, Worcester. The cases for the most part coming to my notice have been children who have baths in their own homes, their parents treating them themselves under the supervision of a Health Visitor. The treatment is carried out by immersing the patient in a hot bath for 20 minutes, scrubbing and drying with a rough towel and then using benzyl benzoate emulsion and allowing to dry into the skin.

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NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1943.

| Disease.                                 | Total Cases<br>Notified. | Cases admitted<br>to Hospital. | Total<br>Deaths. |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Smallpox.                                | -                        | -                              | -                |
| Scarlet Fever.                           | 40                       | 37                             | -                |
| Diphtheria.                              | 6                        | 6                              | -                |
| Enteric Fever (including<br>Paratyphoid) | -                        | -                              | -                |
| Puerperal Pyrexia.                       | 2                        | 2                              | -                |
| Pneumonia.                               | 8                        | -                              | -                |
| Encephalitis Lethargica                  | -                        | -                              | -                |
| Erysipelas.                              | 2                        | -                              | -                |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum                    | -                        | -                              | -                |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever.                    | 4                        | 4                              | -                |
| Measles.                                 | 63                       | -                              | -                |
| Whooping Cough.                          | 33                       | -                              | -                |

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.

| Age Periods.   | New Cases.   |    |           |    | Deaths.      |    |           |    |
|----------------|--------------|----|-----------|----|--------------|----|-----------|----|
|                | Respiratory. |    | Non-Resp. |    | Respiratory. |    | Non-Resp. |    |
|                | M.           | F. | M.        | F. | M.           | F. | M.        | F. |
| 0 .. ..        | 1            | -  | -         | -  | 1            | -  | -         | -  |
| 1 .. ..        | -            | -  | -         | -  | -            | -  | -         | -  |
| 5 .. ..        | -            | -  | 1         | 2  | -            | -  | -         | -  |
| 15 .. ..       | 1            | 3  | -         | -  | 1            | 2  | -         | 1  |
| 25 .. ..       | 1            | 4  | -         | 1  | 1            | 1  | -         | -  |
| 35 .. ..       | 4            | -  | -         | -  | 2            | -  | -         | -  |
| 45 .. ..       | 6            | -  | 1         | -  | 3            | 1  | -         | 1  |
| 55 .. ..       | -            | 1  | -         | -  | -            | -  | -         | -  |
| 65 and upwards | -            | -  | -         | -  | -            | -  | -         | -  |
| TOTALS -       | 13           | 8  | 2         | 3  | 8            | 4  | -         | 2  |

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. FOLLOWS.

Medical Officer of Health.

